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UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT

DISTRICT OF ARIZONA

In re:

No. 2-10-bk-17750-RJH

No. 2-10-bk-17754

THORNWOOD FURNITURE
MANUFACTURING, INCORPORATED,

(Jointly Administered)

Debtor.

CHAPTER 11

In re:

ALBACORE HOLDINGS, L.L.C.

Debtor.

**DECLARATION OF CRAIG THORN IN
SUPPORT OF MOTION FOR ORDER
AUTHORIZING AND APPROVING
DEBTOR-IN-POSSESSION FINANCING
AND TO USE FUNDS CLAIMED AS CASH
COLLATERAL**

CRAIG THORN declares as follows:

1. I am the President of Thornwood Furniture Manufacturing, Incorporated, and the managing member of Albacore Holdings, L.L.C. (collectively, the "**Debtors**"). I own 70% of the outstanding membership interests in Albacore. I am the 70% shareholder in Thornwood.

2. This Declaration is submitted in support of the factual allegations contained in the *Motion for Order Authorizing and Approving Debtor-In-Possession Financing on an Interim and Final Basis and to Use Funds Claimed as Cash Collateral* (the "Motion").¹

3. As the controlling officer and majority owner of the Debtors, I am familiar with the Debtors' general business and financial affairs. The statements set forth herein are true and accurate

¹ Capitalized terms used herein shall have the same meaning given to them in the Motion, unless otherwise defined herein.

1 to the best of my personal knowledge and if called to testify I would testify as stated herein.

2 4. Thornwood is one of the largest, nationally-recognized manufacturers of
3 contemporary wood furniture in the United States. It operates from a 450,000 square foot state-of-the-
4 art manufacturing and warehouse facility on a 22-acre campus near Sky Harbor International Airport in
5 Phoenix, Arizona (the "**Property**"). Thornwood designs and manufactures furniture products both for
6 the residential and commercial markets. Its residential products can be found nationwide in showrooms
7 of well known furniture retailers.

8 5. Thornwood currently employs over 250 full and part-time employees.
9 Thornwood began operating in 1987 with less than \$1 Million in sales and a mere handful of workers
10 selling only furniture for the residential market. By 2004, however, Thornwood was generating \$60
11 Million in annual sales, and employed a workforce of approximately 850 employees. In 2007,
12 Thornwood expanded into the commercial furniture market. Since 2007, the Debtor has placed
13 commercially designed furniture into established commercial businesses as well as into small and large
14 scale commercial building projects.

15 6. Albacore owns and operates the Property upon which Thornwood conducts its
16 manufacturing and sales operations. Other than owning the Property, Albacore does not have any
17 operations. Scott Thorn, Jeff Woods, Bob Lubold and I are the owners and officers of the Debtors. The
18 business operations of the Debtors, including cash management systems, control, and human resources
19 are fully integrated. As set forth more fully below, M&I is the principal lender to each of the Debtors.

20 7. Until the recent economic down-turn, Thornwood had been a very profitable
21 company. From 1996 through 2005, Thornwood had net operating income of \$34 Million dollars on
22 sales of \$500 Million. Also during this time period, and through the Filing Date, the Debtors were and
23 remain solvent enterprises.

24 8. The sudden and severe recession has caused Thornwood to re-evaluate its
25 business models and strategies that had been so successful in the past. Like many businesses,
26 Thornwood was simply caught off-guard by the housing market's sudden and rapid collapse. Since the

1 initial phases of the recession however, Thornwood has stabilized its business operations, and has
2 developed new models and strategies to accommodate present and near future market conditions. These
3 strategies include the following:

- 4 a. developing new residential product lines and aggressively placing them in
the showrooms of both new and existing retail customers;
- 5 b. forming new retail distribution channels for its products;
- 6 c. expanding commercial business opportunities;
- 7 d. fostering relationships with local custom installation companies to sell
kitchen cabinets to builders throughout Arizona; and
- 8 e. adding to its wholesale operations by entering into the retail furniture
market by establishing "Maddies on Madison," a weekend-only factory
furniture outlet situated on the Property in 50,000 square feet of
warehouse space.

12
13 9. Furthermore, in keeping with the trend toward environmentally-friendly products,
14 Thornwood has also developed the capability to produce "green" furniture made from core materials that
15 contain no added formaldehyde, and that are Forestry Stewardship Counsel certified as coming from
16 well-managed forests. Thornwood's "green" products appeal to both the "local manufacturing" and
17 "American-made" movements that are currently popular with consumers.

18 10. M&I is the principal lender to each Debtor. On March 2, 2005, Albacore entered
19 into two term notes (the "**Albacore Notes**") in favor of M&I; a fixed rate note in the original principal
20 amount of \$7 Million, and a variable rate note in the original principal amount of \$3 Million. The
21 Albacore fixed rate note has a present balance of about \$6,213,775, and the Albacore variable rate note
22 has a present balance of about \$546,582. The combined Albacore debt is about \$6,760,357 (the
23 "**Albacore Debt**"). The Albacore Notes matured on March 2, 2010.

24 11. In November 2008, Thornwood signed a revolving note in the original principal
25 amount of \$7,000,000 (the "**Revolving Note**"), and a term note in the original principal amount of
26 \$739,100.27 (the "**Term Note**", and with the Revolving Note, the "**2008 Thornwood Notes**" and with

1 the Albacore Notes, the "Notes"), both in favor of M&I as payee. The present balance on the Revolving
2 Note is \$5,280,223, and the present balance on the Term Note is \$574,593. The combined Thornwood
3 debt is about \$5,854,816 (the "Thornwood Debt"). The Thornwood Debt plus the Albacore Debt (the
4 "Indebtedness") is about \$12.5 million.

5 12. Upon information and belief, M&I alleges that the Thornwood Debt and the
6 Albacore Debt are cross-defaulted and cross-collateralized. Upon information and belief, M&I claims
7 that it has a lien in all of the real property and personal property that the Debtors own, and that
8 Thornwood cannot use the proceeds of its accounts receivable without its consent or the consent of this
9 Court since M&I claims that these proceeds are its "cash collateral."

10 13. In January 2009, M&I conducted formal appraisals of the Property and the
11 Business Collateral. According to M&I's appraisers, the Property had a fair market value of almost \$27
12 Million, while the Business Collateral had a fair market value of approximately \$6.4 Million. The
13 Debtors believe that the Indebtedness is about \$12.5 million. Accordingly, the \$12.5 Million
14 Indebtedness is secured by \$33 Million in assets. In May 2010, I received notifications from
15 Thornwood vendors and customers that M&I was attempting to auction the Notes and the related
16 collateral. In the materials received by Thornwood vendors, customers and competitors soliciting bids
17 for the Notes, M&I claimed that the Property had an "as is" value of \$21 Million.

18 14. The Debtors' ability to fulfill their working capital needs can be satisfied only if
19 the Debtors are authorized to borrow under the DIP Financing and to use such proceeds, and cash
20 collateral, to fund their operations. The credit provided under the DIP Financing will enable the Debtors
21 to continue financing their operations, pay their employees, vendors, and suppliers, and operate their
22 businesses in an orderly and reasonable manner to preserve and enhance the value of their assets and
23 enterprise for the benefit of all parties-in-interest.

24 15. Moreover, the availability of credit under the DIP Financing and the use of cash
25 collateral will provide employees, vendors, suppliers, and other parties with confidence in the Debtors
26 that will enable and encourage them to resume ongoing credit relationships with the Debtors. The DIP

1 Financing will enable the Debtors to make-up any cash shortfall during the bankruptcy cases as the
2 Debtors' revenues and expenses likely will fluctuate each month during the pendency of these cases.

3 16. Before filing these bankruptcy cases, the Debtors sought financing from a variety
4 of sources. Lenders willing to make new loans on commercial real estate in Arizona during the last few
5 years have been few. Given the pervasive disruptions in the credit markets, financing from traditional
6 lenders was simply not available to the Debtors. Financing from non-traditional lenders was easier to
7 locate but the terms and conditions they imposed on the loans they offered were unacceptable or
8 unaffordable. The DIP Lender was the only source of reasonable financing available to the Debtors.

9 17. The Debtors have engaged in significant efforts during the past two years to
10 locate financing, and have concluded in their sound business judgment that the DIP Financing is
11 absolutely necessary to sustain operations and to preserve their assets. The Debtors have exercised
12 sound business judgment in determining that the DIP Financing is appropriate. The Debtors believe that
13 the proposed terms of the DIP Financing are fair, reasonable, and adequate and do not transfer any
14 substantial control over the Debtors' bankruptcy cases to the DIP Lender, which had no relationship
15 prior to the Debtors. The various fees and charges required by the DIP Lenders under the DIP Financing
16 are reasonable and appropriate under the circumstances.

17 18. I am informed that M&I will claim the revenue generated by the Debtors post-
18 petition as its cash collateral. To date, M&I has not consented to the use of its purported cash collateral.
19 As such, the Debtors request authority from this Court to use the cash collateral to pay critical expenses
20 such as payroll, taxes, the purchase of goods, materials, and services, and to pay other reasonable
21 expenses as they arise in the ordinary course of business. Without that consent, the Debtors will be
22 unable to operate, and will be forced to liquidate its assets, which will cause the Debtors' 250 employees
23 to lose their jobs.

24 19. The Debtors require the DIP Financing and use of cash collateral to fund their
25 operations during the Budget period and thereafter. Having an assured cash flow from these sources
26 will allow the Debtors to provide assurances to its various constituencies that they can pay their

1 obligations on a going forward basis, and will ultimately permit the Debtors to maximize the value of
2 their assets for the benefit of all concerned, including M&I. Allowing the Debtors to incur the DIP
3 Financing and use cash collateral will promote the filing and ultimate confirmation of a plan of
4 reorganization that will pay all creditors, including M&I, in full.

5 I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct to the best of my
6 knowledge and belief.

7 Dated: June 9th, 2010.

8 /s/ CRAIG THORN
9 Craig Thorn

10 COPIES of the foregoing
11 e-mailed this 9th day
of June, 2010 to:

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21 /s/ JULIE LARSEN
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